S-69

Reward (Williams Point Farm)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 10-02-2003

S-69 Reward Williams Point Private Mid eighteenth century, April 18, 1794

Significantly unusal among the early houses of Somerset County, Reward was built on the edge of the Pocomoke Sound during the middle years of the eighteenth century. As originally erected, the squarish, Flemish bond brick house was covered by a jerkinhead roof. In addition to an uncoventional roof shape, the four-room plan dwelling was heated by corner hearths, and rising from the southeast side are the only diamond chimeny stacks extant in Maryland. Attached to the north side of the main block is a frame hyphen which connects a story-and-a-half brick-ended kitchen. The construction of the kitchen is documented by a datebricks marked April 18, 1794.

It is not certain when, or by whom, the early brick house was erected, but architectural evidence suggests it was raised during the period (1740-1760) for Elias White, who had the property resurveyed under the name of "White's Gift" on March 9, 1759, for 626 acres. White family occupation of the property dates to 1687 when Stephen White, Elias's grandfather, inherited the tract from William Stevens. Elias White eventually mortgaged large portions of his plantation, and during the early 1770s his holdings were divided and sold. On November 22, 1773, "White's Gift" was purchased by David Williams for £1065 (F/123).

One year later, the Pocomoke river plantation was resurveyed once again as, "Williams Green." David Williams died in 1782, and his wife, Martha, was assessed for her land the next year. With its situation, "on the Mouth of the Pocomoke," Williams Green consisted of 488 acres and contained, "A Brick wall dwelling house, three rooms below in midling repair, kitchen, barn, and other

improvements indifferent." Martha Williams' estate was valued at £1245. David Williams' will had bequeathed one-half interest to his wife, Martha, while the remaining half was to pass to their son Thomas, when he arrived at the age of twenty-one.

Thomas Williams predeceased his mother, for in 1798 Thomas' heirs, Martha and Katherine Williams, are listed in the tax assessment. Their plantation was described as,

Situate on the mouth of the Pocomoke River adjoining a fast landing on said river. I Dwelling House 30 by 30 one story high with 3 windows $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 3 feet, 2 windows $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, brick walls and wood roof, I kitchen 18 by 22 with a covered waey from said kitchen to the dwelling house of wood.

By 1809 Thomas Williams was dead, and one-half interest in "Williams Green" was inherited by Amelia Gale, who with her husband, General John Gale, sold her share in the plantation to Ralph Milbourn, who in turn sold 300 acres to John Milbourn in 1817 (see T/270 and JD 2/377). The Milbourns retained ownership until 1847, when John Milbourn sold the plantation to William Adams (WP 2/12). Since the mid nineteenth century, the Williams Point farm has passed through a half-dozen hands until the current sowner acquired the property.

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Williams Point Farm, or the Reward, is located at the confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road, about one mile southwest of Shelltown.

This one-and-one-half story dwelling has a steep gable roof with two diamond shaped chimney stacks piercing the east slope of the roof. The stacks join at the top two courses and rise well above the roof peak. The main block of the house is three bays wide and two deep and constructed of whitewashed brick laid in Flemish bond.

The south gable end, overlooking the water, has a center door with a single window, twelve over twelve, in each flanking bay. The three gable windows are tall and narrow, having nine over nine lights. Above these windows the gable is covered with white clapboard.

The north end has two windows in the second story and the same clapboard treatment in the gable. To the north is a one-and-one-half story wing attached to the main block by a hyphen. The north end of this wing is Flemish bond brick and the east and west sides are beaded clapboard. Two small, two over two light windows in the gable flank an inside end chimney with one of its bricks bearing the date 1794. There is one dormer on both the east and west sides of the wing and two on the west side of the main block.

The main block has a double parlor and a stair hall, each with a corner fireplace. The fireplace in the east parlor has two reeds in the pilasters and end blocks. The center tablet has two small squares of herringbone patterned reeding each surrounded by reeded concentric squares. In the west parlor the fireplace also has two reeds in the pilasters. The end blocks have a reeded herringbone motif and the center tablet has an Adamesque over sunburst with incised five-point stars in the spandrels. The fireplace in the stair hall is very simple with some reeding. The stairway is one run with winders and has simple round balusters. A bookcase on the north wall was formerly a doorway.

This small dwelling is nationally significant for its architectural interest as one of the few examples of diamond-shaped chimney stacks of an early period in this county.

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Two diamond shaped chimney stacks give the Reward, or Williams Point Farm, unique architectural distinction in Maryland; no other building has been found in the state with this type of chimney. "What is almost as unusual as the discovery itself is that the date of these chimney stacks is as late as 1794, if the carving on the kitchen chimney is an indication. diamond stack, meaning a chimney stack or shaft set diagonally on its base, originated in medieval England. In the late sixteenth century it seems the unusual chimney stacks were set square or diamond-like, and were built singly or in groups. The Reward is fortunate in having both types of shaft on the main house: a single square stack on the west side, and twin diamonds on the east....This dwelling was a major discovery for the history of southern architecture."

In 1796 Thomas Williams (d. 1804) acquired 212 acres near the Pocomoke River, and is probably the builder of the structure now standing. The Federal Direct Tax Assessment for Somerset County for 1798 lists a house of similar dimensions and description as belonging to the heirs of Thomas Williams, and as occupied by his wife Martha Williams:

> Situate on the mouth of Pokomoke River adjoining a fast landing on said River. 1 dwelling house 30 x 30 one story high with 3 windows $5 \frac{1}{2} \times 3$ and 2 windows $4 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}$ and 4 windows $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}$. Brick walls and wood roof. 1 kitchen 18 x 22 with a covered way from said kitchen to the dwelling house of wood. 1 wood milk house 9 x 8 and 1 meat house 12 x 12 and 1 carriage house 22 x 10 all wood. Valued \$500.

Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, (New York: 1956), p. 23, 25.

(see continuation sheet)

Federal Direct Tax Assessment. 1798. Somerset County, Particular List, Dwelling Houses, Pocomoke Hundred. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. The Thomas Williams referred to in the Tax Assessment was the father of the builder of the house.

Form 10-300a ~(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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(Continuation Sheet) 1

(Number all entries)

Reward

Number 8. Significance continued.

After Thomas Williams' death his lands were partitioned and that portion upon which the house was located was devised to his nephew Thomas Williams Wilkins, who sold it to Lodewick Milbourn in 1809. In his will, written in 1825, Milbourn left his property to his three sons, who appealed to the Chancery Court in 1838 for an equitable division of the estate. All that part of the real estate described as "Pocomoke Farm" was subsequently sold to Moses C. Smith, the owner of a hotel in Princess Anne. Advertisements listing estate sales were regularly put up at his hotel in the 1840's, as well as at a hotel belonging to Theodore G. Dashiell and at the courthouse.

The Reward is located on part of a 400 acre tract of land which was known as Glyneath in 1663 when it was granted to Jenkin Price. Resurveyed in 1683 for 850 acres, the enlarged tract was renamed the Entrance.

Williams Point was called Penfax Point in the 1670's, after Jenkin Price sold Glyneath to Daniel Penfax of London. Somerset court records for 1696 described an early road which ran from Penfax Point to the courthouse, in a northwesterly direction, along the west side of the Pocomoke River. Jenkin Price was himself a road surveyor for Somerset County in 1666, empowered "to act according to the Act of Assembly in regard to making a highway."

A portion of the Entrance was acquired in 1687 by Stephen White, and granted by him to Elias White, his brother, in 1752. Their father, John White, played a prominent role in Somerset County affairs. Arriving in Maryland about 1664, he was made a member of the Commission of the Peace for the Eastern Shore in 1665 and 1666, sat on the first court for Somerset County in 1666, and was named in successive commissions to the court in 1669, 1672, 1675, and 1676. In 1669 John White was made the captain of a company of horse, in 1678 he served as a representative from Somerset County to the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly, and in 1681 he was appointed county sheriff.

³Chancery Papers #8427, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

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November 19, 1973

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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This one-and-one-half story dwelling has a steep gable roof with two diamond shaped chimney stacks piercing the east slope of the roof. The stacks join at the top two courses and rise well above the roof peak. The main block of the house is three bays wide and two deep and constructed of whitewashed brick laid in Flemish bond.

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	SPECIFIC DATE(S) (Il Applicable	und Known)			
	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appropr	iste)		
	Abor iginal	☐ Education	Political	Urban Planning	
	Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)	
-	☐ Historic	Industry	losophy		
	Agriculture	Invention	Science		-
	Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture		
	~ ☐ Art ,	Architecture	Social/Human-		_
ı	Commerce	Literature	itorion		- '
	Communications	Militory	Theater		•
	☐ Conservation	Music	Transportation		-

TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Two diamond shaped chimney stacks give the Reward, or Williams Point Farm, unique architectural distinction in Maryland; no other building has been found in the state with this type of chimney. "What is almost as unusual as the discovery itself is that the date of these chimney stacks is as late as 1794, if the carving on the kitchen chimney is an indication. diamond stack, meaning a chimney stack or shaft set diagonally on its base, originated in medieval England. In the late sixteenth century it seems the unusual chimney stacks were set square or diamond-like, and were built singly or in groups. The Reward is fortunate in having both types of shaft on the main house: a single square stack on the west side, and twin diamonds on the east....This dwelling was a major discovery for the history of southern architecture."1

In 1796 Thomas Williams (d. 1804) acquired 212 acres near the Pocomoke River, and is probably the builder of the structure now standing. Federal Direct Tax Assessment for Somerset County for 1798 lists a house of similar dimensions and description as belonging to the heirs of Thomas Williams, and as occupied by his wife Martha Williams:

> Situate on the mouth of Pokomoke River adjoining a fast landing on said River. 1 dwelling house 30 x 30 one story high with 3 windows 5 $1/2 \times 3$ and 2 windows Brick walls and wood roof. 1 kitchen 18 x 22 with a covered way from said kitchen to the dwelling house of wood. I wood milk house 9 x 8 and 1 meat house 12 x 12 and 1 carriage house 22 x 10 all wood. Valued \$500.4

¹Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, (New York: 1956), p. 23, 25.

²Federal Direct Tax Assessment. 1798. Somerset County, Particular List, Dwelling Houses, Pocomoke Hundred. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. The Thomas Williams referred to in the Tax Assessment was the father of the builder of the house.

(see continuation sheet)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

TATE	0/0
Maryland	5-67
COUNTY	
Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet) 1

(Number all entries)

Reward

Number 8. Significance continued.

After Thomas Williams' death his lands were partitioned and that portion upon which the house was located was devised to his nephew Thomas Williams Wilkins, who sold it to Lodewick Milbourn in 1809. In his will, written in 1825, Milbourn left his property to his three sons, who appealed to the Chancery Court in 1838 for an equitable division of the estate. All that part of the real estate described as "Pocomoke Farm" was subsequently sold to Moses C. Smith, the owner of a hotel in Princess Anne. Advertisements listing estate sales were regularly put up at his hotel in the 1840's, as well as at a hotel belonging to Theodore G. Dashiell and at the courthouse.

The Reward is located on part of a 400 acre tract of land which was known as Glyneath in 1663 when it was granted to Jenkin Price. Resurveyed in 1683 for 850 acres, the enlarged tract was renamed the Entrance.

Williams Point was called Penfax Point in the 1670's, after Jenkin Price sold Glyneath to Daniel Penfax of London. Somerset court records for 1696 described an early road which ran from Penfax Point to the courthouse, in a northwesterly direction, along the west side of the Pocomoke River. Jenkin Price was himself a road surveyor for Somerset County in 1666, empowered "to act according to the Act of Assembly in regard to making a highway."

A portion of the Entrance was acquired in 1687 by Stephen White, and granted by him to Elias White, his brother, in 1752. Their father, John White, played a prominent role in Somerset County affairs. Arriving in Maryland about 1664, he was made a member of the Commission of the Peace for the Eastern Shore in 1665 and 1666, sat on the first court for Somerset County in 1666, and was named in successive commissions to the court in 1669, 1672, 1675, and 1676. In 1669 John White was made the captain of a company of horse in 1678 he served as a representative from Somerset County to the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly, and in 1681 he was appointed county sheriff.

³Chancery Papers #8427, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES													
PRIMARY SOURCES, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Chancery Papers. Federal Direct Tax Assessment, of 1798. Somerset County.													
	Somerset County Judicial Records. Somerset County Land Records.												
	SECONDARY SOURCES Clark, Charles B. The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia:												
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (See Continuation Sheet)													
	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY					ł	D DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES						
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	SW	3/ 5/ 40	75	39	21				ĺ				
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11	. FORM	PREPARED BY			L								
	_	D TITLE:											
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	2525	Riva Road	_										
	CITY OR	TOWN:				٤	STATE		CODE				
120	Anna	nolis LIAISON OFFICER	- 			1	Maryland		24				
12	SIATE	LIAISON OFFICER	CERTIFICA	TION		#	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION						
	As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). I hereby nominate this properly for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Decay Local						I bereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.						
							Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation						
Name Orlando Ridout, IV Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland					I	Date							
						ATTEST: Keeper of The National Register Date							
	Date November 19, 1973												
							☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 197	1-729-147	144/ 1-				

Form 10-300 o (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE					
Maryland					
OUNTY					
Somerset					
FOR NPS USE ONLY					
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE				

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Reward

Number 9. Major Bibliographical References continued.

3 volumes. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1950. Forman, Henry Chandlee. Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. New York: Bonanza Books, 1956.

Richardson, Hester Dorsey. Side-Lights on Maryland History. 2 volumes Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins. 1913.

Torrence, William Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company. 1966.

1.1:10 9 21 1 / 24

Anthony O James 4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

S-69

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) 1. NAME COMMON NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) AND/OR HISTORIC Williams Point Farm Reward 2. LOCATION STATE COUNTY Shelltown Maryland STREET AND NUMBER Somerset Confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road 3. PHOTO REFERENCE FHOTO CREDIT NEGATIVE FILED AT

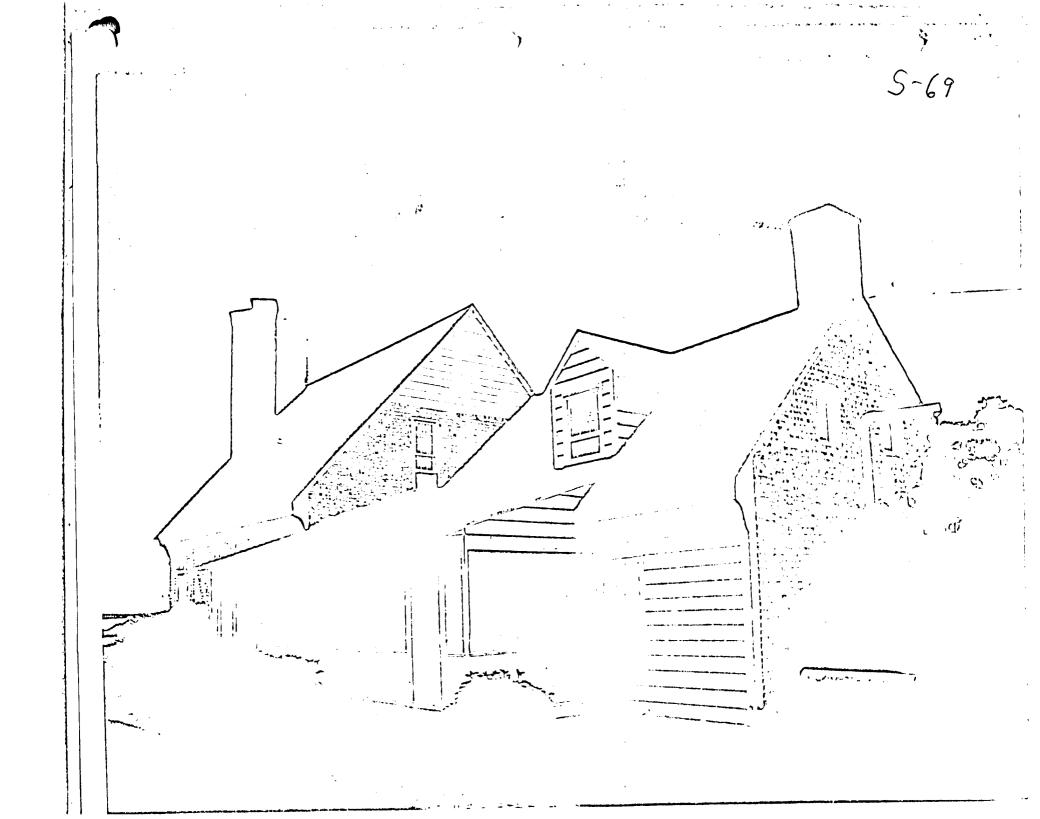
6/73

Annapolis, Maryland 21035

Maryland Historical Trust

2525 Riva Road

GPO 932-009



UNITED STATES

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

· S-69

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME									
COMMON		AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)						
Reward -		Williams Point Farm							
2. LOCATION									
STATE		COUNTY	TOWN						
Maryland		Somerset	Shelltown						
STREET AND NUMBER									
Confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road									
3. MAP REFERENCE									
SOURCE		DATE	SCALE						
U.S.G.S. 7	.5 minute map								
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REQUIREMENTS: PROF	ERTY BOUNDARIES, W	HERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW							

GPO 932-01C

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

MARYLAND

Date Entered

AUG 1 3 1974

Name

Location

Reward

Shelltown vicinity Somerset County

Myrtle Grove

Easton Talbot County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.

Hon. J. Glenn Beall, Jr. Hon. Robert E. Bauman

Dec and

:ST

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOCIAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE COUNTY Somerset TOWN Shelltown VICINITY STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER Duelling ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER Mr. Williams Dwelling PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish Bond Brick NO. OF STORIES 13

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY

2 NAME Williams Point S-69 Farm

DATE OR PERIOD late 17th century W/ STYLE Maryland Colonia 1/1794 addition BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

No

This is a very unusual house of the colonial period. The main house is almost a square. It is three bays wide and three bays deep. The first storey windows are 12/12 while those on the second storey are 9/9. On the sides of the house the windows have flat brick arches. On the gable ends the arches are segmental. The door is in the center bay on the pediment end. There is a simple water table of square protruding brick. Although the brick is now painted random glazed headers and stretchers can be seen. On the gable ends the brick steps short of the roof peak to leave a triangular section of clapboard. Possibly the original roof may have been a jerkin one. The unusual feature of this house are the double diamond-shaped chimneys which rise from one side wall. They are very high and are decidedly a Jacobean hangover. This is possibly the only house in Maryland to have such medieval chimneys.

A low 12 storey colonnade connects the main house to a 12 storey 3 bay Flemish Bond Brick kitchen wing. There is an enclosed

chimney at one end of this wing with a brick in it dated 1794.

This house has suffered some unfortunate alterations such as the addition of large dormers to the roof and sections of modern aluminum siding. Because of its very unusual chimneys it should be preserved.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interior

Exterior

Well-maintained

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

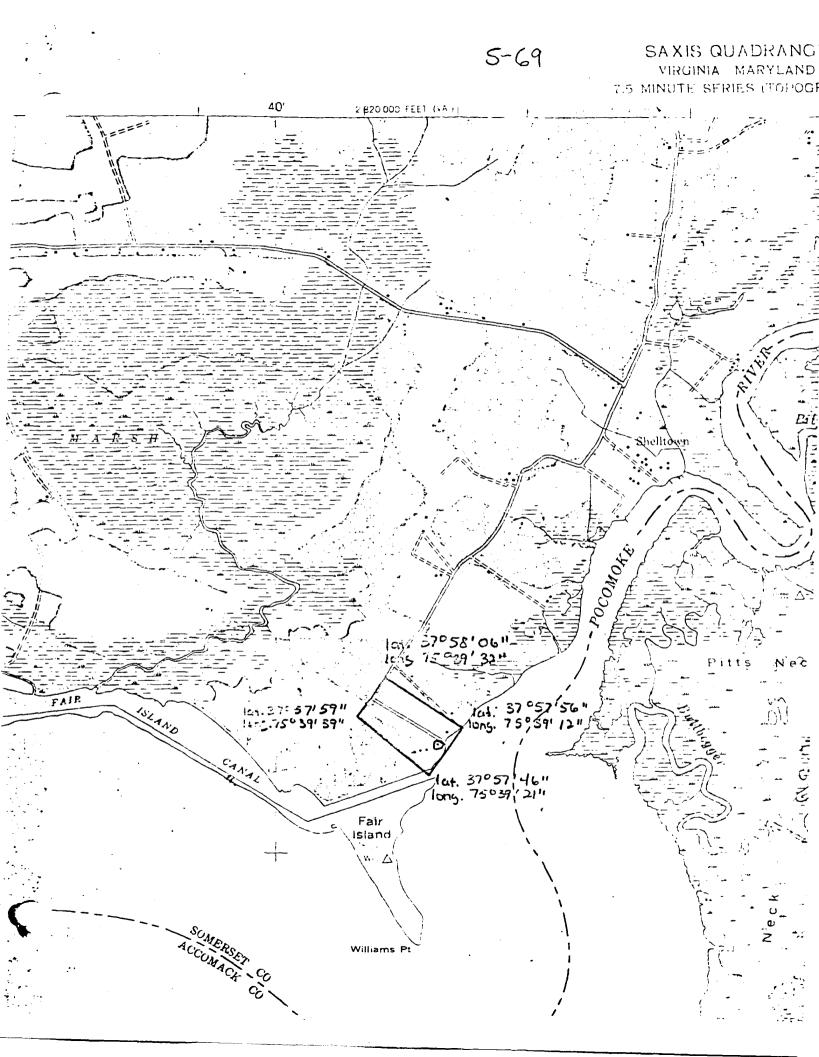
7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Paul A. Brinkman

See "The Reword" - in Forman, H.C. Tidewater 111d. Arch + Gardens p. 23-25, 43.

8/**8/**6**7** DATE OF RECORD









5-69 W. Miamos Point Farm Somerset

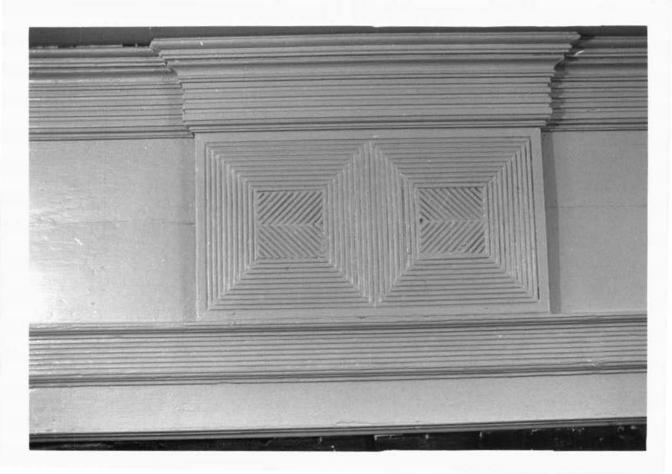


Photographed by DANIEL C. CHURCH





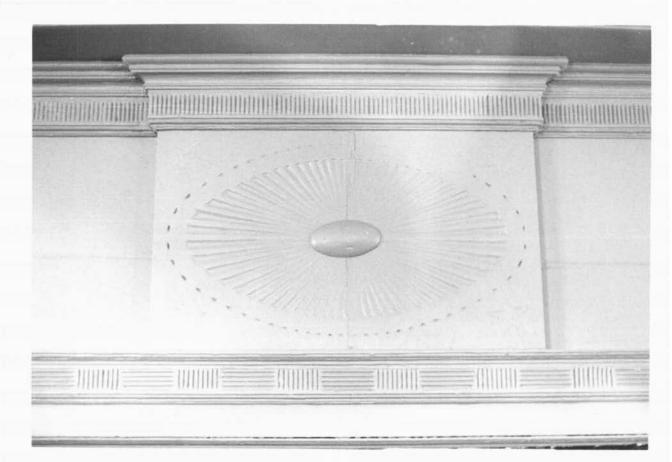
Reward S-69 William's Point, Somerset County Federal Mantel 8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Reward S-69
William's Point, Somerset County
Federal Mantel Detail
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
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